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## Congregational Unitarian Church

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Office of Habitat Conservation

August 9, 2004

The enclosed signatures represent the views of concerned citizens who gathered at the Illinois Renewable Energy Fair in Oregon, Illinois, to promote sensible environmental policies in regard to energy and the environment.

The Environmental Task Force of the Congregational Unitarian Church sponsored these pro-environment petitions. We ask you to recognize that more and more people every day are extremely indignant over the environmental rollbacks enacted or promoted by the present Administration. We believe the Earth is our home and must it must be treated with care and devotion.

For more information, please contact:

Sue Eberhardt 12540 Boxwood Court Huntley IL 60142

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## **Protect Vulnerable Deep Sea Corals & Sponges**

Oceana's fight to defend deep-sea corals from the destructive fishing practice known as "bottom trawling" has reached a critical moment. They have petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to put regulations in place protecting corals and sponges from bottom trawling, and they have opened the issue up for public comment.

Tell NMFS that protecting fragile, ancient coral and sponge habitats is important to you!

August 6, 2004

Dr. Andrew Kemmerer Director, Office of Habitat Conservation National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Dear Dr. Kemmerer:

I am writing to urge you to adopt the rule that is requested for protecting deep sea corals as set out in 69 Fed. Reg. 32991 (June 14, 2004). Coral and sponge habitats are too vulnerable and valuable—for ocean health and potentially for human pharmaceuticals—to allow bottom trawling fishing vessels to destroy them.

The proposed rule would provide the most reasonable protection from damage to living sponges and corals while having the least harmful impact on the economic wellbeing of existing fisheries and fishing communities.

Address

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name

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